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Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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WALKER REACTS TO BOARD'S THOMAS JEFFERSON STUNT
Exec Says \$120 million tax increase will lead to Boston Tea Party Tax Revolt

MILWAUKEE - In response to a press conference called by several Supervisors and featuring an actor playing Thomas Jefferson, County Executive Scott Walker sent boxes of tea to the offices of Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisors John Weishan and Gerry Broderick. The tags on the tea bags illustrated how the \$120 million sales tax increase would not go to property tax relief or parks, transit and public safety; but to pension costs, health care costs and state mandate costs.

“Many members of the County Board have tried to dress up as fiscal conservatives, so the costume party does not surprise me,” said Walker, “They cannot, however, dress up the fact that these new taxes would still go to fund the legacy and mandate costs of the county.”

Walker also stated that a 1% sales tax would make Milwaukee County a tax island with the highest sales tax in the State of Wisconsin. He warned that such a tax increase will lead to another tax revolt.

“Those seeking to invoke the image of President Jefferson should remember the Boston Tea Party and the fact that our Founders fought oppressive levels of taxation,” said Walker. “Taxpayers are tired of broken promises from those who claim tax relief but don't deliver.”

In 1991, the members of the County Board passed a .5% sales tax increase with the promise of property tax relief. From 1992 to 2002, the tax levy went up 55%. In contrast, Walker will deliver his sixth straight county budget on Thursday with no increase in the tax levy from the previous year.

Walker also noted that the referendum vote is merely advisory and holds no authority with the county or the state. He also questioned why they would attempt to schedule a vote in February.

“If some members of the County Board are so intent on raising taxes \$120 million, then they should hold the vote during the spring general ballot and they should run on that message.”

